

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04303 241828Z

54

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 AID-05

/048 W

----- 058140

R 241330Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4303

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR CG

SUBJ: PAN AM - AIR ZAIRE PROBLEMS PERSIST

1. DESPITE REFURBISHED PAN AM - AIR ZAIRE RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED IN WAKE OF PAN AM VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, FUNDAMENTAL WORKING LEVEL PROBLEMS REMAIN. AS EXAMPLE MITRANSPORT INONGA COMPLAINED TO AMB LAST WEEK THAT TAP TEAM HAD SNUBBED HIS INVITATION TO A BANQUET. IT TURNED OUT THAT TEAM HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT BANQUET. APOLOGIES WERE MADE AND THE INCIDENT IS APPARENTLY BLOWING OVER.

2. THIS INCIDENT ILLUSTRATIVE, HOWEVER, OF REMAINING COMMUNICATIONS GAP AND ZAIRIAN SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING THE TEA. THE TEAM'S TEMPORARY HEAD, MIX, FEELS THT NOTHING IS CHANGED AND THAT THE RECENT RICE VISIT MERELY PAPERED OVER THE DIFFICULTIES RATHER THEN SOLVED THEM. MIX POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT RICE THOUGHT HE HAD OBTAINED AN END TO INONGA'S DIRECT INTERFERENCE IN THE OPERATION OF THE AIRLINE CONCLUDING THAT "INONGA ONLY WANTS TO BE KEPT INFORMED." RIGHT AFTER RICE'S DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, INONGA WAS BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS OF TAKING OPERATIONAL DECISIONS WITHOUT EVEN SEEKING THE CLEARANCE OF THE RESPONSIBLE TAP TEAM LEADER. AS RESULT TAP TEAM MORALE IS EXTREMELY LOW AND SOME 40 OF GROUP ARE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING LEAVING ZAIRE ACCORDING TO MIX. MIX POINTS OUT THAT MAJORITY OF THIS GROUP ARE VETERANS OF MANY YEARS SERVICE IN OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES. MIX HIMSELF IS ON SHORT FUZE
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 04303 241828Z

AND ALTHOUGH HE APPARENTLY HANDLING CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH SOME

APLOMB, HE IS NOT ADVERSE TO BEING SENT HOME HIMSELF ON SHORT NOTICE.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN COUNSELING PATIENCE WITH THE HOPE OF AVOIDING NEW "PERSONALITY" PROBLEMS FROM CREEPING INTO THE OVERALL RELATIONSHIP. NEVERTHELESS MIX POINTEDLY RELATED TO INONGA HIS UNHAPPINESS AT THE MINISTER GOING TO THE AMB OVER THE INCIDENT. HE HAS FURTHER INDICATED TO EMBOFFS THAT EMB COUNSEL WITH REGARD TO HIS OPERATIONS HAS ITS LIMITS.

4. WE ARE OBVIOUSLY STILL NOT OUT OF THE WOODS ON THIS SITUATION AND GIVEN THE ABOVE ATMOSPHERE A MINOR ISSUE COULD WELL BALLOON INTO A SIZEABLE CONFRONTATION OVERNIGHT.
HINTON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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